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This Month in UT Tyler History

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5-2017

# May 2017

University of Texas at Tyler

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UNIVERSITY  
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FEATURED EXHIBITS  
MAY 2017

♦ **The Political Life of**

**William M. Steger:** A look at Steger's gubernatorial and U.S. House of Representatives campaigns

♦ **Presidential Election**

**Memorabilia:** From the Tim Anthony Jackson Collection

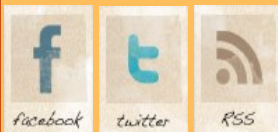
On Display at the Library

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# This Month in UT Tyler History

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MAY 2017

## Ten Years Ago (May 2007)

### UT Tyler Conducts Outdoors Adventures Sabine River Trip

A group of UT Tyler faculty, staff, and students spent May 19 canoeing on the Sabine River. As part of the UT Tyler Outdoors Adventures Program started in 2005, the trip took participants to enjoy the outdoors, Professor of Biology Dr. Neil Ford explained. "That's what it's all about," said Ford. "I find that students don't get outside very much anymore. As a biologist, I think that it's important they do. The trip can be a team building kind of experience, too." The one-day trip was free and open to all students, faculty and staff. Camp Tyler provided the canoes, and UT Tyler Student Activities provided a free lunch.



### Tyler GEAR UP Offers Leadership Initiative for Students

Ninety-seven eighth graders from Boulter, Dogan, and Stewart Middle Schools participated in iLead camp as a part of a Tyler GEAR UP leadership initiative for students. Tyler Gear UP Director and UT Tyler Professor, Dr. Peggy Gill received a \$3.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to implement Tyler Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. In partnership with the Tyler Independent School District, Tyler GEAR UP serves to encourage and prepare students for college. The iLead camp, held May 7 – 9 at Sky Ranch in Van, featured a variety of topics including career exploration, college admissions, curriculum choices and life choices as students proceed to high school. "Since the primary objective of Tyler GEAR UP is to increase the number of college-bound students from these targeted Tyler ISD campuses, the iLead camp experience was a perfect match for our students," said Gill. "It was great fun and a motivational experience. The students can believe in themselves and the opportunities before them." Seven John Tyler High School students, along with three teachers, joined the middle school students and their teachers to establish a leadership bridge from middle school to high school. "The camp experience designed by Sky Ranch, focused on introducing students to the concept of ME, Incorporated," said Todd Witt, senior director for school programs at Sky Ranch. "Through ME, Inc., students learned that they are president and CEO of their own lives, and the decisions they are making now impact their value in the workplace in the future." *News Release*, May 25, 2007.

## Twenty Years Ago (May 1997)

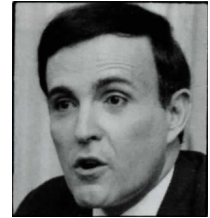
### President Hamm Honored by Faculty Senate at UT Tyler Commencement

A resolution honoring President George F. Hamm for his 16 years of service and "unstinting devotion" to The University of Texas at Tyler as a "world-class president" highlighted the university's spring commencement ceremonies. The resolution adopted by UT Tyler's Faculty Senate, recognized Hamm's achievement of "more than doubling the university's enrollment by introducing a wide range of scholarship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, and engaging the broader community in the pursuit of academic excellence." Dr. Roger Conaway, Faculty Senate president, read the resolution in a surprise presentation to Hamm during the University's commencement exercise for degree candidates of the School of Business Administration and the School of Education and Psychology. The resolution praised Hamm for his commitment to expanding the mission of the University and his success in winning approval for new graduate programs in the arts and sciences. As president, the resolution further states, Hamm "has brought the world to our community in originating the Distinguished Lecture Series, initiating the Eisenhower International Golf Classic, introducing Tyler to the Sister Cities International organization, negotiating twinning agreements between the university and other institutions of higher learning in France, Japan, Mexico, and Poland, and encouraging programs that bring international scholars to our university on a visiting basis." Also, Hamm "opened the university to the world by augmenting our international studies opportunities, providing grants for deserving students to participate in these programs, and providing assistance for faculty members to travel abroad in conjunction with their scholarly research, professional development, or service to the university and community." In addition to recognizing Hamm's initiatives in international education, the resolution noted that he "committed the university to a position of cultural leadership in the region" and brought to reality the new R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center on the campus.

# Thirty Years Ago (May 1987)

## U.S. Attorney Speaks At Commencement

The Honorable Rudolph Giuliani, U.S. attorney for the southern district of New York, spoke at The University of Texas at Tyler spring commencement, Friday, May 8. Giuliani received national recognition for his efforts in prosecuting cases involving New York mafia families, and for his role as a prosecutor in police corruption and bribery trails. Giuliani addressed the 312 UT Tyler degree candidates – 261 at the bachelor's level and 51 at the master's level - stating that "Each and every one of you owes an obligation to join in the solutions to the political and social problems that face your country in the 1980s and beyond. Your years at The University of Texas at Tyler have given you skills; you must use those skills to contribute greatly." President George F. Hamm provided the welcome, introductions, and certification of degree candidates. University of Texas System Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. James P. Duncan conferred degrees.



# Forty Years Ago (May 1977)

## House Passes Library Fund Only

An appropriations bill that passed the Texas House of Representatives included funds for the Texas Eastern University (TEU) Library, but not for capital equipment – anything over \$50. The past four years were good ones for Texas colleges and universities in terms of legislative funding for additional buildings. "Now the trend has reversed itself," said Representative Bill Clark. The reversal was due to a general feeling among legislators that Texas colleges and universities were overbuilt. The Library was the only one of five Phase III buildings included in the Texas House appropriations bill. Despite the gloomy news from Austin, President James H. Stewart was reluctant to give up on the other four buildings in Phase III until the legislative process ended. He admitted there was a "money shortage," and would have to prove a real need to get funds. He believed the facts showed a need for funds. He said that unlike many universities nation and state-wide, TEU was not suffering from declining enrollment. "TEU's enrollment is increasing, in fact, and the East Texas area is prospering," he said. Nothing that goes through the legislative process is assured, and President Stewart believed even the library had a long way to go before its final passage. "We have a lot of work to do yet." He did not wish to comment on the effects of a legislative setback. Stewart's office walls were scattered with artists' pictures of present and future TEU buildings. President Stewart foresaw continued difficulties for the next several years in obtaining funds necessary for expansion. "It will have some effect on our growth. It may affect the master plan. Next year recommendations will be made for Phase IV construction." Only two buildings were proposed for construction, a Humanities and Social Science building and an addition to the physical plant (there was one such addition in each phase). When the Governor Briscoe vetoed the library during Phase II legislation, the library was put into the Phase III budget. Four buildings were left out of the Phase II funding request. *The Patriot*, May 9, 1977.

## University Archives and Special Collections

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### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

and by appointment

The University Archives and Special Collections Department (UASC), located on the ground floor of the Robert R. Muntz Library, retains materials of archival and/or historical interest to The University of Texas at Tyler and the surrounding community.